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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/123,253	07/27/1998	T. WILLIAM HUTCHENS	D-5639-C4	5339
20350	7590	04/12/2005	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			ALEXANDER, LYLE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	
DATE MAILED: 04/12/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/123,253	HUTCHENS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lyle A. Alexander	1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 53-54 of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,208. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patented claims teach the claimed agarose and dextran.

Claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 32 and 53-54 of U.S. Patent No. 6,027,942. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the same polymer coating is claimed.

Claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 13-14,17,44-45 and 48 of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,137.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both are directed to synthetic polymers.

Claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 99 and 124 of copending Application No. 09/848,512. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both claim the same probe surface materials.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 84-85 of copending Application No. 10/887,107. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both claim the same probe surface materials.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 78-80,93-95 and 113-115 of copending Application No. 10/882,608. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both claim the same probe surface materials.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 64,86,88-90,101,108-113,121-124,126-127,137-140 and 144 –148 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lyle A. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lyle A Alexander
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1743